

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-11. **(Cancelled)**

12. **(Currently Amended)** An isolated polypeptide ~~selected from the group consisting of:~~
~~—— a) — a fragment of a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 or 4, wherein the fragment comprises at least 15 contiguous amino acids of SEQ ID NO:2 or 4.~~
~~b) — a naturally occurring allelic variant of a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 or 4, wherein the polypeptide is encoded by a nucleic acid molecule which hybridizes to a nucleic acid molecule consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1 or 3 under stringent conditions;~~
~~—— c) — a polypeptide which is encoded by a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence which is at least 50% identical to a nucleic acid comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 or 3;~~
~~—— d) — a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence which is at least 50% identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 or 4.~~

13. **(Currently Amended)** ~~The~~An isolated polypeptide ~~of claim 12~~ comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 or 4.

14. **(Original)** The polypeptide of claim 13, further comprising heterologous amino acid sequences.

15. **(Original)** The polypeptide of claim 14, wherein the heterologous amino acid sequences are derived from an immunoglobulin molecule.

16. **(Currently Amended)** ~~The~~ An isolated polypeptide of claim 14, wherein the polypeptide comprises ~~comprising~~ from about amino acids 19-245 ~~of or~~ SEQ ID NO:2 or from about amino acids 19-238 of SEQ ID NO: 4.

17-24. **(Cancelled)**

25. **(New)** An isolated polypeptide consisting of from about amino acids 19-245 of SEQ ID NO:2 or from about amino acids 19-238 of SEQ ID NO:4.

26. **(New)** An isolated polypeptide encoded by a nucleic acid molecule which hybridizes under conditions of incubation at 45°C in 6 X sodium chloride/sodium citrate(SSC), followed by washing in 0.2 X SSC, 0.1% SDS, at 50-60°C to the complement of a nucleic acid molecule of SEQ ID NO: 1 or 3, wherein the polypeptide costimulates T cell proliferation in vitro when the polypeptide is present on a first surface and a molecule that transmits an activating signal via the T cell receptor is present on a second, different surface.

27. **(New)** The polypeptide of claim 26, further comprising heterologous amino acid sequences.

28. **(New)** The polypeptide of claim 27, wherein the heterologous amino acid sequences are derived from an immunoglobulin molecule.

29. **(New)** An isolated polypeptide encoded by a nucleic acid molecule having a nucleotide sequence at least about 90% identical to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 or 3, wherein the polypeptide costimulates T cell proliferation in vitro when the polypeptide is present on a first surface and a molecule that transmits an activating signal via the T cell receptor is present on a second, different surface.

30. **(New)** The polypeptide of claim 29, further comprising heterologous amino acid sequences.

31. **(New)** The polypeptide of claim 30, wherein the heterologous amino acid sequences are derived from an immunoglobulin molecule.

32. **(New)** An isolated polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence at least about 90% identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 or 4, wherein the polypeptide costimulates T cell proliferation in vitro when the polypeptide is present on a first surface and a molecule that transmits an activating signal via the T cell receptor is present on a second, different surface.

33. **(New)** The polypeptide of claim 32, further comprising heterologous amino acid sequences.

34. **(New)** The polypeptide of claim 33, wherein the heterologous amino acid sequences are derived from an immunoglobulin molecule.